

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

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In the specification, on page 1, line 1, please insert the following:

--This application is a 371 of PCT/JP03/07493 06/12/2003--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The most relevant prior art of reference was that which was submitted by the previous office action. However, it does not teach nor fairly suggest singularly or in any combination thereof a method for producing a single crystal comprising the step of heating a crucible which holds a raw material and pulling up a seed crystal while the seed crystal is in contact with a melt of the raw material so as to produce a single crystal, wherein the crucible is heated by a high-frequency induction heater including a high-frequency coil for heating the crucible, and wherein the diameter of the single crystal is increased during formation of a taper portion of the single crystal in an initial stage of growth of the single crystal, and the single crystal is cylindrically grown connecting with the taper portion during formation of a straight body portion of the single crystal, while the radiation heat which reaches the taper portion of the single crystal from an inner surface of said crucible is blocked during the formation of the taper portion of the single crystal.